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### Starch in Tracheal Ducts.

In *Botanische Zeitung*, No. 10, 1887, Joseph Schrenk speaks of the formation of starch in the ducts of *Aristolochia Serpentaria*, L. Alfred Fisher had reported the occurrence of starch in the ducts of *Plantago major*, L., and had left the fact to be explained by future investigation (*Bot. Zeitung*, xliii, p. 89).

J. Schrenk noticed that in the rhizoma of *Aristolochia Serpentaria* the interior of the ducts was frequently crowded with those peculiar intrusions from contiguous parenchyma cells, which are known as tylosis. He found an abundance of starch in the intruding portions of these cells, which would satisfactorily account for the presence of starch in dotted ducts; whether this explanation would hold good in regard to *spiral* ducts, the writer of the article is not prepared to decide, as he is not informed of the occurrence of starch in the tylosis cells inside of such vessels.

In a note to the article, Prof. de Bary refers to his book (*Vergl. Anatomie*, p. 179), from which we learn that Unger (*Sitzungsber. d. Wiener Acad.*, I Abth., 1867) has described tylosis in spiral tracheæ. I seize this opportunity to direct the attention of American students to de Bary's standard work, which, in its English version, opens to us such vast treasures of botanical knowledge.

J. SCHRENK.

### Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

*Agarics, North American.—The Subgenus Amanita.*—A. P. Morgan. (*Journ. Mycol.*, iii., pp. 25-33.)

Twenty eight species are described, none of them new to science. A key to the species is given.

*American Violets.* (*Garden*, xxxi., pp. 168, 169. Plate 584.)

The colors of the plate hardly do justice to the delicacy and brightness of tint of our "Bird-foot Violet," though the writer speaks in highest terms of this and others of our species.

*Baptisia calycosa*, var. *villosa*, n. var. Wm. M. Canby. (*Bot. Gazette*, xii., p. 39.)

This new variety is based on Curtis' No. 699, collected in Wilson County, Florida.

*Botanical Journals.*—C. E. Bessey. (*Amer. Nat.*, xxi., pp. 79-81.)